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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5492
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 0125
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE 0334
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 0935
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 8414
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 0076
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE 0906
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 0091
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 1381
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE 5015
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE 2104
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1483
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE 0301
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 1985
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1210
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 0933
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 8957
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE 0951
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 1174
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 2303
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 2322
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 4711
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE IMMEDIATE 2978
RUEHBA/AMCONSUL PERTH IMMEDIATE 1614
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY IMMEDIATE 0922
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHEHAAA/THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 0668
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0396

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SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA WELCOMES UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
ON LEBANON; REITERATES THAT CONTRIBUTION TO EXPANDED UN
FORCE LIKELY TO BE SMALL

REF: STATE 132517

¶1. (U) Acting POLCOUNS delivered ref demarche on UNSC Resolution 1701 to Richard Maude, Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs and Director, Lebanon Crisis Management Center, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on August 12.

¶2. (U) Maude responded by referring to Foreign Minister Alexander Downer's media release and public remarks earlier in the day. In his media release (text at para 4 below), FM Downer welcomed adoption of the resolution, commending the leadership of the United States and France in bringing it about. He urged Hezbollah, which he termed "a terrorist organization," to stop all attacks against Israel, and for Israel to cease offensive operations in Lebanon, and called on the United Nations, Lebanon and Israel to work towards a sustainable and durable ceasefire, including full implementation of resolutions requiring the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon. Downer also called on Iran and Syria to respect the resolution, as well as Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

¶3. (U) In a separate press interview on August 12, FM Downer responded to an inquiry about commitment of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel to Lebanon by reiterating

earlier GOA statements that Australia might provide some niche capability or logistical support but would be unable to provide large numbers of troops.

14. (U) Following is the text of Foreign Minister Downer's August 12 media statement:

Begin text:

Lebanon Situation

I welcome the unanimous adoption today of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 calling for the full cessation of hostilities in the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. I commend the leadership of the United States and France in achieving this outcome.

The Australian Government has been deeply concerned about the loss of life in the conflict and its affect on civilian populations and has been calling for such a resolution.

It is now essential that Hezbollah, a terrorist organization, stop all attacks against Israel. Israel should also stop offensive operations in Lebanon in accordance with the terms of the resolution.

I note the resolution authorizes the expansion of the mandate and size of UNIFIL, the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

This resolution does not mean the end to the crisis. This

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will not occur until the underlying causes of the conflict are resolved.

I call on the United Nations, the Government of Lebanon and the Government of Israel to work towards a sustainable and durable ceasefire. This must be based on strict respect by all parties for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both countries and full implementation of resolutions requiring the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon.

It is also essential Iran and Syria respect the resolution, and Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

End text.

OWENS